

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING #1  
OF THE  
WINSLOW UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1  
GOVERNING BOARD**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The special meeting of the Governing Board of Winslow Unified School District No. 1 was called to order by Mrs. Marilee Ervien, President, at 5:31 p.m., January 11, 2018, in the District Board Room, 800 Apache Avenue, Second Floor, in Winslow.

**PRESENT:** Mrs. Marilee Ervien  
Mr. Joey Hartnett  
Mrs. Dodie Montoya  
Mr. Allen Leonard

**ABSENT:** Mrs. Sharon Greenwood

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**WORK STUDY SESSION:** A. With regard to possible changes to Policies BIE – Board Member Insurance / Liability and GCQE – Retirement of Professional Staff Members, Mrs. Lisa Long addressed the Board. She distributed packets of information containing our policies, an information sheet on COBRA and the policies of many other school districts around the state, and stated that she is representing the teachers of Winslow High School. Mrs. Long said that the older teachers want to continue to belong to the District's insurance group after retirement because it is cheaper than through other available groups. She researched the policies of other districts and said the coverage for board members is exactly the same as retirees in all other districts. Mrs. Long talked about the cost of premiums and COBRA.

Mr. Leonard asked what is being changed and Mrs. Long replied that right now when a person retires, they are no longer on school insurance. Mr. Leonard asked how much it would cost to keep retirees on our insurance and Mrs. Long said nothing.

Mrs. Lomeli presented handouts regarding Board Member Health Insurance Coverage and Eligibility to Continue in Group Medical/Life Insurance Plans. She has spoken with other nearby districts, prepared a cost analysis, shared emails from our insurance agent, and provided information regarding the number of participants for each type of insurance. Mrs. Lomeli said she was not aware that this discussion would be about retirees keeping our medical insurance; she thought the request was for dental and vision insurance. She explained the difference between active employees and retired / separated employees and how they are in different premium brackets.

The Board, administration and members of the audience discussed this matter. Topics included Medicare, cost of premiums, supplemental insurance, COBRA, and other districts' policies and procedures. There was also discussion about the upcoming change in the District's medical insurance provider.

Mr. Hartnett said he contacted Dr. Terry Rowles, Assistant Director of Policy Services with Arizona School Boards Association. Dr. Rowles said Policy BIE is based on A.R.S. 15-387 B and C, and he suggested that the District does more research in relation to Policy GCQE and work with the insurance trust to make a decision as there are many different ways to handle the matter. Mr. Hartnett said he understands the employees' concern and hopes that a solution beneficial to the employees can be reached after further research.

Mrs. Mattox said administration is not against this but she wants to be sure it is done the right way. This is something that will impact everyone who retires.

At this time, there was discussion about utilization and possible parameters, plans and premiums for active employees vs. retirees, and what type of insurance the prospective retirees are looking for.

Mrs. Ervien said the Board will research this matter further and revisit it in the future.

- B. With regard to the 2018-2019 budget, Mrs. Mattox said the Board wishes this to be an ongoing discussion; therefore, this item will be on all agendas in the near future.

She said that in his recent address, Governor Ducey stated that there is a five-year plan to restore funding previously cut from Arizona schools. The restoration of this money will come in very small steps. She also said that AASBO (Arizona Association of School Business Officials) has dropped out of the lawsuit against the state for education funding.

Mrs. Ervien asked if there were any comments regarding the budget. Mr. Hartnett said the Board needs a budget committee so that the stakeholders are involved in the budgeting decisions. The goal is to trim costs and not raise class sizes. Mr. Leonard said he thinks a committee would be a good idea.

There was discussion among the Board and the members of the audience.

Mrs. Montoya said the Leadership Team and the Academic Coaches know what needs to be done and we need to listen to them. They are the experts.

Staff was directed to include an action item on the next agenda for the formation of a budget committee.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mrs. Ervien called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Leonard made this motion and Mr. Hartnett seconded it. All members present voted "aye" and the motion carried. The time was 6:42 p.m.

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President

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Vice-President

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Clerk

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Member

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Member

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Cyndie Mattox, Superintendent